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The matter of each lesson is divided into text, notes, observations, vocabulary, exercises, and topics for study. The notes are designed to call attention to all the points to be noted about every word of the text, and to give as full information concerning them as is desirable at that stage of progress.

The observations give a classified *résumé* of the information imparted by the notes, and contain the matter that should be learned and retained. The exercises are based upon the text, and present both Greek and English for translation.

It seems best to give so much of detail for the benefit of those who are not familiar with any one of Harper's inductive series for beginners in Latin and Greek.

The typography and binding of the book are all that could be desired. The large heavy faced Greek type should be especially commended as a blessing to the student's eyes. The maps and illustrations are well chosen and executed.

Whether the inductive method for beginners is to supplant the older fashion or not is yet uncertain; but there can be no doubt that Harper's inductive series has, thus far, contributed much to the popularity and success of the method. This latest contribution is second to none in skillful and thorough application of inductive principles.

Yet it seems to me that this book, along with similar ones of the series, could be vastly improved by giving greater heed to the principle of one thing at a time. Too many new things are crowded upon the pupil's attention at the beginning, causing bewilderment and confusion. For the brighter pupils, this passes away as progress is made; but for the duller ones, there is too often discouragement and paralysis. Could not the first lessons be simplified by passing over for late attention many things now introduced into the notes? It seems to me that this is possible, both for the Greek and Latin Inductive Primers, and that thereby the value of these excellent books would be greatly increased.

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Primer of Italian Literature. By F. J. SNELL, A. M., Balliol College. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1893. pp. 184.

Spanish Literature. An Elementary Handbook, with Indices, etc. By H. BUTLER CLARKE, M. A., teacher of Spanish at Oxford. New York: Macmillan & Co., 1893. pp. x+288.

Snell's *Primer* will fill a place long unoccupied. It is a useful manual, giving a brief outline of the field of Italian letters. It makes no pretension to completeness, but gives just what every cultured man would wish to know before he sets out to study the

subject thoroughly. A large amount of reliable information is here compacted into readable form by a man whose judgment is unbiased, and who, without indulging in indiscriminate laudation, is generous to all. The first chapter is devoted to the discussion of those authors who preceded Dante, whom Mr. Snell regards as the virtual creator of Italian literature. The rest of the book is divided as follows: Dante, 14 pages; Petrarch and Boccaccio, 12 pages; the Drama and the Romantic Epic in the Fifteenth Century, 11 pages; The Golden Age (*i. e.* the sixteenth century) is discussed under three heads: Prose-writers, Poets, and Dramatists, 44 pages; The Marinists and Arcadians, 16 pages; The Forerunners of the Revolution, 16 pages; The Tragedians and Meli, 11 pages; The Revolution and the Reaction, 10 pages; Romanticism and Pessimism, 17 pages.

The book is well bound, and well printed on good paper. Names of authors are printed in black-faced type, and the titles of works in italics; a simple device of inestimable service to the reader in such a book. If abstracts of particular books had been printed in smaller type it would have added some convenience in this direction.

Mr. Clarke has also prepared an elementary manual which will find a place very much like that to which Mr. Snell's Primer is destined. While Clarke's book is much larger, it performs about the same service for the beginner in the study of Spanish literature, that Snell's does for the beginner in Italian literature. Up to the present time Ticknor's treatise is almost the only thing available to English readers, and its great size prevents it from being very useful to one wishing an outline of the subject. Clarke's manual by giving some attention to contemporary writers, supplements in a certain way Ticknor's book. To illustrate the development of the language and the progress of literary method, the author has given numerous extracts of the authors treated, both in the original and in English translation. In his preface, the author suggests five divisions of his subject, but in the body of the work, these divisions are not readily perceived. At the end of the book are given a select bibliography of the authors mentioned and a list of the chief authorities on Spanish literature. Italics are used for the titles of books, etc., but no device is used to attract the eye to the names of the authors. These two manuals in connection with Saintsbury's, and also Warren's Primers on French literature, suggest the idea that there should be one of somewhat the same scope on German literature.

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